

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1       1. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2       cable, comprising:

3       a first finger that has a distal end;

4       a second finger that has a distal end;

5       a pin that is coupled to said distal ends of said first  
6       and second fingers; and,

7       an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1       2. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said first finger  
2       has a V-shaped groove.

1       3. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said pin is  
2       attached to said first finger and extends through an  
3       aperture in said second finger.

1       4. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator is  
2       coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3       second fingers in an inward direction and an outward  
4       direction.

1       5. The gripper of claims 2, wherein said V-shaped  
2 groove is located along said first finger so that a portion  
3 of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of  
4 said first finger and said second finger.

1       6. The gripper of claim 1, further comprising a return  
2 spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1       7. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator  
2 includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1       8. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2 cable, comprising:

3       a first finger that has a groove and a bottom surface,  
4 said groove having a location so that a portion of the  
5 fiber optic cable extends below said bottom surface;  
6       a second finger; and,  
7       an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1       9. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said groove has a  
2 V-shape.

1       10. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a pin  
2 that is attached to said first finger and extends through  
3 an aperture in said second finger.

1       11. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator is  
2 coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3 second fingers in an inward direction and an outward  
4 direction.

1       12. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a  
2 return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1       13. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator  
2 includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1       14. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2 cable, comprising:

3       a first finger that has a bottom surface and means for  
4 extending a portion of the fiber optic cable below said  
5 bottom surface;

6       a second finger; and,

7       an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1       15. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said means  
2 includes a V-shaped groove.

1       16. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a pin  
2 that is attached to said first finger and extends through  
3 an aperture in said second finger.

1       17. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator is  
2 coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3 second finger in an inward direction and an outward  
4 direction.

1       18. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a  
2 return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1       19. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator  
2 includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1       20. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable,  
2 comprising:  
3       moving a gripper until a fiber optic cable makes  
4 contact with a pin that extends between a first finger and  
5 a second finger; and,

6 moving the second finger to grasp the fiber optic  
7 cable.

1           21. The method of claim 20, wherein the fiber optic  
2 cable moves into a V-shaped groove of the first finger.

1        22. The method of claim 20, wherein a portion of the  
2 fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of the  
3 first finger and the second finger.

1        23. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable,  
2 comprising:

3 actuating a gripper so that a first finger and a second  
4 finger of the gripper grasp the fiber optic cable, the  
5 grasped fiber optic cable having a portion that extends  
6 below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second  
7 finger.

1        24. The method of claim 23, wherein the fiber optic  
2        cable is located within a V-shaped groove of the first  
3        finger.